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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Some Recommendations to the Special Rapporteur of the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) has been working in the field of human rights for years. ODVV has always been trying to initiate a dialogue between the government and Human Right Council along with other persistent attempts to promote human rights within the country through negotiations with the government. As a human rights NGO, based in Iran, ODVV is quite familiar with our country's human right issues. Our organization which is actively playing its effective role both inside Iran and in the Human Rights Council, would like to offer a number of recommendations to the Special Rapporteur of the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran:

1. Today is the deadline of NGO Written Statements for HRC31 and the report of the special rapporteur is not made available to the public on UN website yet. Considering the limited chances of NGOs to take the floor during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, ODVV asks Dr. Shaheed to provide the Iranian NGOs with the opportunity to have access to his report before the Written Statements Registration deadline, so that they can comment on the report.
2. The human right situation of countries need to be assessed in a non-political manner, this is while different factors have led to the politicization of human rights issues in Iran, adding to the complexity of the situation. ODVV would like to ask the Special Rapporteur to make attempts to depoliticize the whole process. As an example, the Special Rapporteur might call for papers and start a professional dialogue with Iran universities and religious schools on human rights issues so as to discuss the controversies risen between the government and international human right mechanisms and seek effective solutions to the existing problems.
3. Professional reports that assess human right situations in countries need to be unbiased, impartial and based on the realities of the country. Some sections of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of Human Rights Situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran are designed based on Interviews with or allegations made by individuals which might not be necessarily true. The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) asks the Special Rapporteur to try to refer to more reliable resources to gather the related information.
4. As stated earlier, impartiality is one of the necessities of professional reports on human right situations. In recent years, Iran government has provided much detailed descriptions of the human rights cases pointed out in Special Rapporteur's reports. Unfortunately, the answers are reflected in the final version of Mr. Shaheesd's report in a really brief way, which has two negative consequences: a) The final human rights report of the situation of human rights in Iran does not provide the readers with the viewpoints of both sides – the government and the ones who report human rights violations – that is, the final report suffers from degrees of biasness; and b) Briefly citing the views expressed by the government will discourage our country officials policy of getting involved in providing answers to the report, hence undermining ODVV's persistent longstanding attempts to encourage the government policies of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur.
5. ODVV has always been trying to promote the situation of human rights in Iran and considering the important role of judges within the Iranian legal system, our organization has sent a proposal to the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a project to run "Education Courses for Iranian Judges, Lawyers, Judicial and Law Enforcement Experts." The objectives of the project was to train 100 Iranian lawyers, judges, judicial and law enforcement experts on human rights principles, the functions of the Human Rights Council, UPR mechanism as well as different aspects of human rights in national and international levels. The participants would learn more about human rights instruments, major concepts. However, despite the communications of ODVV representatives with the office of the Special Rapporteur, to date there has been no replies on the proposal.
6. Considering the Special Rapporteur's lack of access to the country and the fact that NGOs based in Iran are dealing with human rights issues on the ground, they can be easily contacted to provide answers to human rights questions of Dr. Shaheed's office. ODVV has provided, professional detailed answers to the few questions sent to the NGO office in recent years. As stated in face to face meetings of NGOs with the Special Rapporteur, all NGOs can provide answers to Dr. Shaheed's questions.